(d) The Special Group headed by Dr. S.P. Gupta Member, Planning Commission has estimated that with the target of achieving 10 million jobs per year it will be possible to eliminate unemployment by the end of 2012.

Loss of jobs by women

1028. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of women have lost their jobs in the unorganized sector in the country; and

(b) if so, the details for the last three years in agriculture, handicraft, fisheries sectors etc., State-wise and sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Social and medical security benefits

1029. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ESIC Review Committee has recommended enhancement of wage ceiling for coverage of social and medical security benefits;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) whether Government have decided not to establish new ESI hospitals/dispensaries and to out source medical facilities for workers from private hospitals/clinics; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri M.C. Verma to review the working of ESI Scheme in its report submitted to the Government has recommended that the existing wage ceiling may be enhanced from Rs. 6,500/- p.m. to Rs. 9,000/- p.m.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Unemployment ratio

†1030. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proportion of unemployment has been going up whereas the proportion of job opportunities has been declining in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what effective steps have been taken by Government for providing employment to the educated, uneducated, skilled and unskilled youth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) As per the estimates available from labour force surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), estimated unemployment rate as percentage of total labour force which was of the order of 1.90% during 1993-94 has marginally gone up to 2.23% during 1999-2000. At the same time estimated work force in the country which was of the order of 374 million during 1993-94 has gone up to 397 million during 1999-2000.

(c) Government is implementing special programmes for eradication of poverty and generation of employment. These include Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SJGSY), Jawahar Gram Smriddhi Yojana (JGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) and Food for Work Programme. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is also being implemented to provide employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth.

Employment status

1031. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people getting employment during the last five years, year-wise, sector-wise and State-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.